

Message Text

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46

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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Z O 081316Z NOV 73 ZFF-6

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA FLASH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN FLASH

USDEL RIYADH FLASH

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1724

S E C R E T ROME 12280

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, IT

SUBJECT: FUELING OF SIXTH FLEET VESSELS AND ARAB OIL EMBARGO

FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PARTY

1. DIRGEN FOR POL AFFAIRS DUCCI TELEPHONED EMBASSY TO INFORM US THAT ITALIAN AMB TO SAUDI ARABIA WAS CALLED IN BY SAUDI FONOFF TO HEAR CHARGE THAT ITALY WAS IMPEDING ARAB OIL EMBARGO AGAINST US BY FUELING OF SIXTH FLEET VESSELS. SAUDI DEMARCHE WAS THREAT THAT ITALY IS IN DANGER OF BEING ADDED TO ARAB OIL EMBARGO. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR REMARKED (INCORRECTLY) THAT SIXTH FLEET IS PART OF NATO BUT PROMISED TO SEEK FURTHER GUIDANCE FROM ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY. THE SAUDI (SAQQAF) REMARKED THAT HE WAS NOT INTERESTED IN JURIDICAL ARGUMENTS.

2. IN CALLING, DUCCI SAID HE NOT ONLY WANTED US TO BE AWARE THAT ARAB PRESSURE WAS SPREADING, BUT ALSO, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY, HE WISHED TO LEARN OUR VIEWS. DUCCI SAID THAT MFA WAS CONSIDERING INSTRUCTING THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR AT RIYADH TO TELL THE SAUDIS THAT THE SIXTH FLEET HAD BEEN AT SEA SINCE THE MIDEAST WAR BEGAN AND HAD BEEN REFUELED BY ITS OWN VESSELS. (COMMENT: THIS IS TRUE.) DUCCI ACKNOWLEDGED THE POINT WE MADE THAT THE SAUDIS WOULD LIKELY FOCUS ON THE QUESTION OF REFUELING AFTER THE SIXTH FLEET RETURNED TO PORT AND THAT THIS COULD RAISE VERY QUICKLY THE ISSUE OF A
SECRET

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POSSIBLE ARAB EMBARGO ON FUEL FOR NATO FORCES AS SUCH, SINCE FUEL IS PROVIDED ESSENTIALLY UNDER NATO AGREEMENTS AND IN ONE CASE (AGUSTA BAY) ACTUALLY COMES FROM NATO STOCKS. DUCCI FLATLY SAID THAT OF COURSE ITALY WOULD REFUSE TO BUDGE ON THE QUESTION OF

SUPPORT FOR NATO WHEN WE POINTED OUT THE EXTREME POTENTIAL GRAVITY TO THE ALLIANCE OF MOVING DOWN THIS ROAD. DUCCI SAID ITALIANS DID NOT WANT TO HAVE THE ALLIANCE INJECTED INTO THE CURRENT OIL SITUATION AND WANTED THE SECRETARY'S JUDGMENT ON A POSSIBLE REPLY. HE EXPRESSED HOPE PROBLEM WOULD GO AWAY AFTER SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH FAISAL, BUT INDICATED HE WOULD CONSULT FURTHER WITH US IF IT DID NOT.

3. WE PROMISED DUCCI WE WOULD GET A READING FROM SECRETARY'S PARTY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE BUT NOT LATER THAN COB NOV 9. THE ITALIAN AMBASSADOR IN RIYADH EXPECTS TO BE SUMMONED BY THE SAUDIS ON NOV 10. HE ASKED ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM SEC GEN GAJA THAT THIS SUBJECT NOT RPT NOT BE DISCUSSED DURING CURRENT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SAUDIS UNLESS SAUDIS RAISE IT AND THAT ITALIANS BE PROTECTED AS SOURCE OF INFORMATION.

4. REQUEST GUIDANCE SOONEST. VOLPE

SECRET

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